UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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EXAMINER
BLAIR, DOUGLAS B

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *28 January 2008*.

2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *1-12,14-27,29-34 and 36-46* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) *1-12,14-27,29-34 and 36-46* is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

    1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

    2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

    3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date *4/18/08*.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The applicant has amended claims 1, 22, and 33. Claims 1-12, 14-27, 29-34, and 36-46 are pending. The applicant incorrectly stated that claims 1-46 are pending in the Remarks/Argument section of the applicant's amendment.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see Remarks/Arguments, filed 1/28/2008, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 22, and 33 under 35 USC section 103 by Sullivan and Freund have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,067,548 to Cheng.

Recommended Claim Amendments

In order to differentiate the claimed invention from the prior art it is recommended that he applicant add details to the claims to indicate where in the access management system the claimed method steps are being performed. Such details would help in differentiating the applicant's invention from the Cheng reference.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-2 and 4-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,067,548 to Cheng.

As to claim 1, Chang teaches a method in an access management system comprising an identity system for managing identity profiles and an access system for providing security of resources across one or more web servers, the method for defining a workflow for managing entity identities, the method comprising the steps of: the access management system accessing a template that indicates one or more parameters for defining one or more workflows for managing identity profiles, wherein said one or more parameters comprise one or more parameters that define an operation to be performed on identity profiles as part of said one or more workflows **(col. 11, line 59-col. 12, line 26)**; creating a definition of a first workflow for managing an identity profile for at least one user, based on said template, wherein said identity profile is used by said access management system to control access by said at least one user to said resources across one or more web servers, wherein the first workflow is configured to automate the process of managing the identity profile by executing the operation defined by one or more workflow parameters **(col. 11, lines 4-52)**; and storing said definition of said first workflow at a mass storage device **(col. 7, lines 55-67)**.

As to claim 2, Cheng teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein: said template includes a set of parameters for each action available to a workflow type **(col. 13, lines 51-60)**.

As to claim 4, Cheng teaches a method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of: adding data to said template after said step of storing; creating a definition of a second workflow after said step of adding data; and storing said definition of said second workflow **(col. 14, lines 14-50)**.

As to claim 5, Cheng teaches a method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of: creating the template **(col. 11, line 4-col. 12, line 26)**.

As to claim 6, Cheng teaches a method according to claim 5, wherein said step of creating said template includes the steps of: adding a set of workflow types to said template; adding one or more actions for at least a subset of said workflow types; and adding parameters for at least a subset of said actions **(col. 13, lines 24-37)**.

As to claim 7, Cheng teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein: said template applies to only one application **(col. 11, line 4-col. 12, line 26)**.

As to claim 8, Cheng teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein: said template includes parameters for creating objects, deleting objects and changing attributes **(col. 11, line 4-col. 12, line 26)**.

As to claim 9, Cheng teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein: said template includes parameters for self registration **(col. 11, line 4-col. 12, line 26)**.

As to claim 10, Cheng teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein: said template includes a parameter indicating whether supplied variables can be used in said step of creating **(col. 11, line 4-col. 12, line 26)**.

As to claim 11, Cheng teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein: said template includes a parameter indicating whether additional workflows can be used to supply data **(col. 11, line 4-col. 12, line 26)**.

As to claim 12, Cheng teaches a method according to claim 11, wherein: said additional workflows includes multiple levels of nesting of workflows **(col. 11, line 4-col. 12, line 26)**.

As to claim 14, Cheng teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said step of creating includes the step of: accessing one or more parameters in said template; offering a set of options based on said accessed parameters; and receiving a selection of one or more of said offered options **(col. 11, line 4-col. 12, line 26)**.

As to claim 15, Cheng teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said step of creating includes the steps of: determining a first set of possible actions for a particular step based on said template; reporting said first set of possible actions; and receiving a selection of a first action of said first set of possible actions **(col. 11, line 4-col. 12, line 26)**.

As to claim 16, Cheng teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said step of creating includes the steps of: determining a first set of possible data types for a particular action based on said template; reporting said first set of possible data types; receiving an indication of a variable for said first workflow; and receiving a selection of a first data type for said variable **(col. 11, line 4-col. 12, line 26)**.

As to claim 17, Cheng teaches a method according to claim 16, wherein: said first data type is a variable supplied by another workflow **(col. 11, line 4-col. 12, line 26)**.

As to claim 18, Cheng teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said step of creating includes the steps of: determining whether pre actions are available for a particular

action based on said template; reporting whether pre actions are available for said particular

action; and receiving a selection of whether to add pre actions to said definition of said first

workflow for said particular action **(col. 11, line 4-col. 12, line 26)**.

    As to claim 19, Cheng teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said step of

creating includes the steps of: determining a first set of possible entry conditions for a particular

action based on said template; reporting said a first set of possible entry conditions; receiving a

selection of a first entry condition of said first set of possible entry conditions; determining and

reporting whether said first entry condition is associated with a sub-workflow; and receiving an

indication whether said first workflow should wait for said sub-workflow **(col. 11, line 4-col. 12,

line 26)**.

    As to claim 20, Cheng teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said step of

creating includes the steps of: determining a first set of possible actions for a particular step

based on said template; reporting said first set of possible actions; receiving a selection of a first

action of said first set of possible actions; determining a first set of possible data types for said

first action based on said template; reporting said first set of possible data types; receiving an

indication of a variable for said first workflow; receiving a selection of a first data type for said

variable; determining whether pre or post actions are available for said first action based on said

template; reporting whether pre or post actions are available for said first action; receiving a

selection of whether to add pre or post actions to said definition of said first workflow for said

first action; determining a first set of possible entry conditions for said first action based on said

template; reporting said a first set of possible entry conditions; receiving a selection of a first

entry condition of said a first set of possible entry conditions; determining and reporting whether

said first entry condition is associated with a sub-workflow; and receiving an indication whether

said first workflow should wait for said sub-workflow **(col. 11, line 4-col. 12, line 26)**.

As to claim 21, Cheng teaches a method according to claim 1, wherein said step of

creating includes the steps of: accessing one or more parameters in said template; offering a set

of options in a graphical user interface based on said accessed parameters; and receiving a

selection of one or more of said offered options using said graphical user interface **(Figure 9)**.

As to claims 22-39, they are rejected for similar reasoning to claims 1-21 as being

devices and a system for performing the method of claims 1-21.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 40 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent

Number 6,067,548 to Cheng.

As to claims 40, Cheng does not explicitly teach enrolling, renewing, and revoking

certificates. Official notice is taken that the use of certificates was well known at the time of the

invention. It would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Cheng with the certificates

because certificates provide an added layer of security and the claims are not actually doing

anything specific with the certificates thus using certificates as claimed would produce a

predictable result.

Claims 3 and 41-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S.

Patent Number 6,067,548 to Cheng in view of U.S. Patent Number 7,080,078 to Slaughter et al.

As to claims 3 and 41-46, Cheng does not explicitly teach the use of XML and callback

URL's for performing workflow functions.

Slaughter teaches the use of XML messages and callback URL's for performing

workflow functions (col. 8, lines 24-48).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the Computer Networking art at the

time of the invention to combine the teachings of Cheng regarding the management of users with

workflows with the teachings of Slaughter regarding XML and callback URL's because XML

provides a way of standardizing messages via a network.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this

Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DOUGLAS B. BLAIR whose telephone number is (571)272-3893. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Caldwell can be reached on (571) 272-3868. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Douglas B Blair/
Examiner, Art Unit 2142